THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the major recipient of Access Deficit Charge (ADC). BSNL has stated that there was no mechanism of maintaining separate records of incoming traffic in its network originated from its own network. Due to this, the amount of ADC during the first IUC regime, which was applicable from 1.5.2003 to 31.1.2004 cannot be separately estimated. IUC receipts of BSNL for the period from 1.2.2004 to 31.1.2005 and 1.2.2005 to 31.1.2006 are estimated to be Rs. 4559/- crores and Rs. 3700/- crores respectively. ADC is not meant only for rural networks but is also meant for providing affordable telecommunication services in semi-urban and urban areas. Separate records for traffic meant for termination in urban/semi-urban and rural areas are also not maintained in the network of BSNL. The total charges, therefore, actually collected from consumers towards ADC to fund rural telephony since 2003 and the amount utilized for rural telephones from the charges collected from consumers during the same period has not been maintained.

(e) ADC is shared between various service providers and does not accrue to the Government. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Regulation on 23.2.2006 migrating ADC from per minute basis to revenue share basis for domestic segment.

Quality of service provided by cellular operators

750. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of reception of many mobile service providers is not very satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether Government have directed the cellular operators to improve their quality of service;

(d) if so, the reaction of the cellular operators thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the services of both landline connections and mobile phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) and (b) Sir, efforts are continuously made by all service providers to improve the quality of service of mobile network in the country. An analysis of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) report for the quarter ending December, 2005 indicates that most of the quality of service (QOS) parameters are generally met.

(c) and (d) TRAI has issued a direction on 29th November, 2005 to all Cellular Mobile Service Providers to ensure by 31st December, 2005, that the quality of service parameters, including the level of point of interconnection (POI) congestion, in its network should be strictly within the benchmark laid down by the Authority. The matter was discussed by TRAI with service providers when the later indicated that they have a very high growth rate and that factors such as interconnection, lack or delay of permission for erection of cell sites etc. are impending a better QOS.

(e) Besides watching the general performance with reference to QOS of both landline connections and mobile phones, Government is making continuous efforts to coordinate and release additional spectrum from existing users. The matter for clearance of cell sites is pursued with local authorities.

Amount for development of NER

†751. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of the amount being provided to North East States for developmental works is done by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the system established therefor; and

(c) whether his Ministry is satisfied that the citizens are getting full benefit of the funds being provided for development works?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Funds for development works

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.